

1962

The Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind

of the
City of New York and Its Vicinity
NINETY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT



HOME: 2641 GRAND CONCOURSE
AT EAST 193rd STREET
NEW YORK 68, N. Y.

FOUNDED BY THE REV. EASTBURN BENJAMIN

Incorporated May 19, 1869

OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY (quoted from Certificate of Incorporation, filed May 19th, 1869; amended December 6th, 1950): "That the business and object for which said Society is to be formed, are to afford relief to the Destitute Blind by providing a home for them and as far as it can, procuring work to enable them to earn their own livelihood. . . ."

For 94 years the Society has been immeasurably aided through bequests in its work of helping the needy and friendless blind. No bequest or gift is too small.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath to "THE SOCIETY FOR
THE RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE BLIND OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND ITS VICINITY"
the sum of..... Dollars
for use of said Society.



FOREWORD

Our Ninety-fourth Annual Report, for the year ended September 30, 1962, is devoted to a description of the pattern of life that has evolved over a period of almost a hundred years at our Home for needy blind men and women, as "seen through the eyes" of a new resident entering the Home for the first time.

We look back with grateful memories to the past generations of friends of the Society whose earlier support laid the foundation for the services the Home now renders. And we hope all those who are now contributing in any way toward perpetuating and improving those services will find satisfaction in the care and protection our blind people received during the year.

This Report is sent to our friends with warm thanks on behalf of all our officers and trustees and on behalf of the blind people in need who during the year continued to receive the benefits of devoted individual care at the Home.

HENRY PARISH 2nd
President



A corner of the Home's entrance hall. The clock in the background, listed as a gift in the Society's Annual Report for 1893, has chimed out the quarter-hours for some seventy years of the Home's ninety-four years of service.

A DESIGN FOR LIVING

(Our Home for Needy Blind People after 94 Years)

For ninety-four years our Society has operated a Home where needy blind people, both men and women, find security and the special kind of care they need.

During that time the pattern of life at the Home was bound to change, of course, as the experience of more than nine decades pointed the way to improvements and as the support of generations of friends placed in our hands the means for better facilities and greater service.

One of the improvements over the years has been in the physical plant, as the Home progressed from its first modest building to a series of more suitable quarters and finally, in 1918, to its present comfortable building, which, with its spacious grounds, occupies an entire square block.

In these convenient surroundings the Home has been enabled to continue its progress toward the goal of providing for its blind men and women day-to-day living as interesting and active as possible, with a maximum of individual freedom and a minimum of regimentation.

The services rendered, as they have now evolved, can be visualized through an outline of life at the Home as an incoming resident finds it today and of the steps by which he or she is made to feel at home, as a welcome member of our family of blind people.

ADMITTANCE TO THE HOME

When a new resident enters our Home he has already been classified as blind according to the legal definition—that is,



Blind residents off on a shopping tour, accompanied by young volunteer guides.

he has 20/200 vision or less. He is an adult without financial means to pay his own way in life and provide such special care as he may require. His admittance to the Home and his residence there are free—no charges of any kind are made. Most of our residents remain with us as long as they live unless they are sufficiently young to learn a craft that will enable them to become self-sustaining. A few new residents apply directly to the Home for admittance, but most of them are referred to us by other social agencies familiar with their circumstances and living conditions.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The new resident must be in reasonably good health, as determined by our attending physician, since the Society is neither equipped nor authorized to operate a nursing home. The Home maintains its own infirmary, however, with a staff of registered and practical nurses under the direction of the attending physician, where minor and chronic illnesses that do not require outside hospitalization are treated; and the health-care program at the Home includes regular physical check-ups. Psychiatric, ophthalmological, dental, and podiatric services are available as needed. After residents are once

admitted the Society assumes full responsibility for their welfare, and outside hospitalization and surgical care are provided when prescribed by the attending physician.

COMPANIONSHIP AND GUIDANCE

An incoming resident needs close companionship in his new surroundings. An older resident is assigned as a special guide for the first month, or for as long as may be necessary. The newcomer is taught the location of guide rails both inside the building and on the large grounds, and is made familiar with the layout of the extensive building. The special guide also helps the new resident get acquainted with the other blind men and women and find the wider companionship he needs. Our goal is to make each resident feel that the Home is indeed a home—*his* home—*her* home.

SELECTION OF A ROOMMATE

With the exception of a few single rooms for residents who have been with us longest, each bedroom at the Home is occupied by two blind residents. Care is taken, especially when a new resident is involved, to see that people of congenial tastes share a room.

Each bedroom has a radio and "talking books" are always available. In the choice of programs, as in many other ways, sharing the interests of a roommate can add a great deal to the comfort and enjoyment of a blind resident.

*Rug making and needlework—and
a bit of a chat.*



SELECTION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ACTIVITY

The Society is aware of the advances made in training blind people to become independent and self-sustaining. But because the average age of our own residents is high at this time the Home's occupational therapy activities for the present consist mainly of light work suitable for older men and women. At the same time, the Home offers facilities for the pursuit of any individual hobby, and is always ready to provide equipment and material to enable new residents to gratify any particular interests they may have. In the event they have no preference we help them select the kind of constructive, morale-building activity best suited to their ages and general interests. Different kinds of needlework, crocheting, knitting, rug making, basket weaving, leather work, chair re-caning, and mattress renovating are among the handicrafts our blind men and women are engaged in at this time.

SELECTION OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP

A chapel service is held at the Home each Sunday. Various faiths are represented among our residents, however, and all

A musical session and outdoor relaxation in the garden.



who choose to do so attend outside worship in the religions of their choice through the co-operation of neighboring churches and synagogues, which provide volunteer guides and transportation. Thus a new resident soon finds the fellowship of a nearby congregation which worships in

his own faith, if he so wishes. Basic rites of the various religions are observed at the Home for the benefit of residents unable to attend outside services.



A lesson in Braille.

FINDING A PLACE IN THE HOME'S SOCIAL LIFE

Upon entering the Home the new resident finds a wide range of social and recreational facilities, from solitary leisure-time enjoyment of radio programs and "talking books" to group activities in which all the residents participate. All our blind men and women are encouraged to give expression to any musical ability they may have, and some of them give dramatic readings and impersonations at the many informal gatherings. A few residents have appeared in musical programs at a nearby school during the past year, at the invitation of a class of high school girls who serve at the Home as guides and readers, as part of their school work. Various outside individuals and groups present musical and other types of entertainment at the Home from time to time. Through the co-operation of other organizations summer-camp vacations are available to any of our residents who wish to go. The Home's back garden, with its towering shade trees, provides an ideal setting both for exercise and relaxation in the open.

A separate Card of Thanks, shown below, will convey a further idea of the many facets of recreational life at the Home as made possible by our friends.

We feel that the services rendered seventy-nine blind people at the Home in the course of the year represent real progress toward a design for living that offers needy blind men and women the most possible in the way of security, daily care suited to their individual needs, and interesting, personalized, morale-building activities—all in the atmosphere of a real home.

A CARD OF THANKS

In addition to the friends who make financial donations to our Home, there are many who contribute other kinds of gifts and render valuable volunteer services.

Our sincere thanks are extended to all such friends—individuals, social agencies, religious congregations, clubs and other organizations, and high school groups.

The following list of gifts and services will give some idea of what their generosity means to our family of blind people:

Musical and other entertainment at the Home

Provision of transportation

Services as guides and shoppers

Literature in Braille

Instruction in Braille

Recorded "talking books"

Entertainment in private homes

Holiday and birthday remembrances

Special treats of refreshments

Gifts of clothing

Once again, too, we express warm thanks to the printing firm which for so many years, and again this year, has contributed our Annual Report without cost to the Society.

Residents are always free to entertain visitors in the Home's spacious livingroom.



OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1961-62

President

HENRY PARISH, 2ND

Vice-Presidents

LAWRASON RIGGS

CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.

Treasurer

JOHN BROOKS

Assistant Treasurer

JOHN C. ORR, 2ND

Secretary

EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.

Finance Committee

O'DONNELL ISELIN

JOHN BROOKS

PHILIP M. BRETT, JR.

Auditing Committee

CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.

EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.

Law Committee

LAWRASON RIGGS

CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.

EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.

Executive Committee

JOHN BROOKS, *Chairman*

CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.

EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.

PHILIP M. BRETT, JR.

JOHN C. ORR, 2ND

WINTHROP S. EMMET

A. GIFFORD AGNEW

The President, *Ex Officio*

Attorneys

GIFFORD, WOODY, CARTER AND HAYS

Trustees

A. GIFFORD AGNEW.....	122 E. 42nd St., N. Y. City
PHILIP M. BRETT, JR.....	40 Wall St., N. Y. City
JOHN BROOKS.....	100 Broadway, N. Y. City
GEORGE CRAWFORD.....	7 East 42nd St., N. Y. City
WINTHROP S. EMMET.....	215 E. 73rd St., N. Y. City
O'DONNELL ISELIN.....	40 Wall Street, N. Y. City
CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.....	60 Wall Street, N. Y. City
JOHN C. ORR, 2ND.....	100 Broadway, N. Y. City
HENRY PARISH, 2ND.....	42 Wall Street, N. Y. City
LAWRASON RIGGS.....	74 Trinity Place, N. Y. City
EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.....	25 Broadway, N. Y. City

PAST OFFICERS

Presidents

REV. EASTBURN BENJAMIN.....	1868-1874
REV. J. J. ROBERTS.....	1874-1884
CHARLES H. LELAND.....	1884-1890
EDWIN S. COLES.....	1890-1896
HON. HENRY E. HOWLAND.....	1896-1913
WILLIAM FOULKE.....	1913-1920
LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS.....	1920-1944
STEPHEN C. CLARK.....	1945-1950
GEORGE CRAWFORD.....	1950-1953
HENRY PARISH, 2ND.....	1953-

Vice-Presidents

REV. DR. W. A. McVICKAR.....	1871-1873
REV. DR. C. B. WYATT.....	1871-1872
REV. DR. C. E. SWOPE.....	1872-1873
D. LYDIG SUYDAM.....	1873-1878
G. W. T. LORD.....	1873-1874
	1878-1881
N. P. HOSACK.....	1874-1878
TOWNSEND COX.....	1878-1883
F. H. WEEKS.....	1881-1886
B. F. CORLIES.....	1883-1886
W. W. CULVER.....	1886-1892
E. S. COLES.....	1889-1891
J. McCARTER.....	1891-1893
H. MANUEL.....	1892-1894
HON. H. E. HOWLAND.....	1893-1896
LYMAN RHOADES.....	1894-1907
MAJ. GEN. C. F. ROE.....	1896-1913
ARCHIBALD D. RUSSELL.....	1907-1913
FREDERIC DEP. FOSTER.....	1903-1929
HOWLAND PELL.....	1913-1928
STEPHEN C. CLARK.....	1929-1944
EDMUND P. ROGERS.....	1928-1948
LUCIUS WILMERDING.....	1945-1949
O'DONNELL ISELIN.....	1948-1950
	1956-1959
WALTER N. STILLMAN.....	1949-1956
HENRY PARISH, 2ND.....	1950-1953
CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.....	1953-
LAWRASON RIGGS.....	1959-

Secretaries

EDWIN S. COLES.....	1871-1891
JAMES McCARTER.....	1891-1893
HENRY J. CAMMANN.....	1893-1903
C. A. SCHERMERHORN.....	1903-1914
CHARLES C. BULL.....	1914-1924
LAWRASON RIGGS.....	1924-1950
CHARLES S. McVEIGH, JR.....	1950-1953
EDMUND P. ROGERS, JR.....	1953-

Treasurers

HORACE MANUEL.....	1871-1896
HENRY C. SWORDS.....	1896-1914
LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS.....	1914-1917
	1919-1920
FREDERIC F. DE RHAM.....	1917-1919
	1920-1931
	1935-1938
H. PENDLETON ROGERS.....	1931-1935
JOHN BROOKS.....	1938-

Assistant Treasurer

JOHN C. ORR, 2ND.....	1955-
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year October 1, 1961—September 30, 1962

INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES:

Investments	\$188,806.35
Remittances from Trusts Not Administered by Society.....	41,709.77
Contributions	41,080.53
Occupational Therapy (Sales and Repair Work).....	2,201.33
	<u>\$273,797.98</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Home Management, Housekeeping, Operation of Building.....	\$ 52,323.57
Provisions, Including Preparation and Service.....	52,005.70
Fuel, Gas, Electricity.....	12,710.91
House Supplies	4,681.20
Physician and Nurses.....	39,101.12
Medical Supplies and Outside Hospital Service.....	7,111.07
Occupational Therapy	9,367.09
Building Maintenance and Service.....	54,669.03
Fiduciary, Legal, and Auditing Fees.....	7,891.89
Pensions and Payments to Co-Operating Agencies.....	7,944.00
Insurance	5,769.28
Social Security	4,729.14
Hospitalization Insurance	3,070.12
Public Relations and Fund Raising.....	14,204.98
Office and House Furniture.....	1,954.60
Various	5,011.59
	<u>\$282,545.29</u>
Excess of Operating Expenses over Income.....	\$ 8,747.31
Depreciation	18,867.81
Total Over-all Deficit.....	<u>\$ 27,615.12</u>

Should you wish more information about the Society's financial statement, please write Mr. John Brooks, Treasurer,
100 Broadway, New York 15, N. Y.

MANAGEMENT OF THE HOME

MISS LILLIAN T. MACKINNON.....	<i>Director</i> (FOrdham 7-2085)
MRS. HELENA McVEY.....	<i>Occupational Therapy Supervisor</i>
MRS. CLARA S. GEHRMANN.....	<i>Nurse in Charge</i>



Attending Physician

HERBERT B. WILCOX, JR., M.D.

The Attending Physician is on the staff of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and whenever necessary calls upon specialists from the Medical Center staff for consultation.



Visitor

THE RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN, D.D., S.T.D.

THE BISHOP OF NEW YORK



Chaplains

REV. HARRY R. COLEMAN

REV. LAWRENCE B. LARSEN

NEW BEQUESTS RECEIVED DURING THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1962

Estate of Thomas B. Hidden.....	\$ 301.24
Estate of Katharine M. Hammil.....	1,010.70
Estate of Albert E. Gans.....	3,208.61
Estate of George C. Schoett, Jr.....	7,265.00
Estate of Marguerite F. Droge.....	19,283.72
Estate of Martin J. Heller.....	6,666.67
Estate of Lydia P. Winslow.....	2,436.22
Estate of Roy Gerstman.....	300.00
	\$40,472.16

Have you thought of remembering our Society in your will?

Form of Bequest

I hereby give and bequeath to "THE SOCIETY FOR
THE RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE BLIND OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND ITS VICINITY"
the sum of.....Dollars
for use of said Society.

Visitors to the Home Are Always Welcome

